

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Hamlet Project Contract

Complete any number of the following activities to reach the points you need for the grade you want to achieve. On the rubric, list which activities you completed and how many points they are worth with a total at the bottom.

### Point System

45-50 points: A-/A

40-44 points: B-/B

35-39 points: C-/C

30-34 points: D-/D

### Options

Items worth 50 Points

- Write an essay in which you describe how Hamlet fits into the idea of a tragic hero with a tragic flaw. Use specific examples to illustrate your point. This should be about 2 paragraphs.
- Pick one of Hamlet's soliloquies and analyze its structure and development of ideas and issues, its imagery, its diction, and where it takes Hamlet's thought from beginning to end. Then consider where it is in the play and how it fits within the large action of scene, act, and play. This should be about 2 paragraphs.
- Write a one-page sequel to the play. What is Horatio up to? How is Denmark being run? What is life like in Elsinore? How is Fortinbras doing as King?

Items worth 30 points

- Write a 1 paragraph essay that compares the motives, actions, responses, and ends of Hamlet, Laertes, and Fortinbras, three young men of slain fathers who seek to avenge those deaths.
- Write a 1 paragraph essay that responds to this prompt: Both Hamlet and Claudius have a conscience and both become murderers. Is one a hero and one a villain, or are we in a more ambiguous realm? Why?
- Watch another version of the movie and write two paragraph compare and contrast essay that discusses the version you watched and the version we watched in class.
- Create a poster board graph that charts Hamlet's insanity through each act. Make sure you come up with a measurement system (using a scale of something normal to something "insane") and include details from the story as

plots on the graph. The Y-axis should be the insanity scale and the X-axis should go from Act I to Act V.

- Write an original song inspired by the play. Turn in a recording or play a live version.

#### Items worth 25 Points

- Create a board game with Hamlet to help review for a test. You can use Jeopardy, Monopoly, Clue, or create your own.
- Create a comic strip over one scene in Hamlet.
- Create a time-line with at least one picture for each scene.
- Imagine that Hamlet has been put on trial for murder and has pleaded insanity. You will choose to be an attorney for either the defense or prosecution. Write an attorney's closing argument establishing either Hamlet's sanity or insanity.
- Select a soliloquy from the play and choose a current song that you feel expresses a similar idea or feeling. Write one paragraph that describes the connection between the song and that particular scene.

#### Items worth 15 Points

- Design a cover for a new edition of Hamlet. Be sure to include a synopsis and "about the author" section.
- Create a time-line with at least one picture for each act.
- Write a modern version of the famous "To be or not to be" soliloquy using the voice and point of view of a popular television, film, literary, or political figure.
- Create a newspaper article for the ending of *Hamlet*. Be sure to include who, what, when, where, why, and how.

#### Items worth 10 Points

- Writers sometimes use a literary device called a foil. A foil is a character who contrasts strongly with another. The characters may face similar obstacles or situations but react differently. In Hamlet, Shakespeare uses Horatio, Laertes, and Fortinbras as foils for Hamlet. Use a Venn-Diagram to compare two different characters. Consider the different ways these young men react to similar situations.
- Create a character shield to represent one of the characters in Hamlet. Each section of the shield should represent: A) the character's goals B) the character's worst fear C) the character's essential nature in symbolic form, preferably as an animal D) three words

representing the character E) each section should contain a picture and a quote from the play F) attach a written explanation of the shield to the back.

Items worth 5 Points

- Write a crossword puzzle with at least 20 questions.
- Translate your favorite school appropriate song into Elizabethan language.
- Write an acrostic poem about a character.
- Write a diary entry from the point of view of one of the other characters about Hamlet's actions.

## **Hamlet Project Contract Tally Sheet/Rubric**

Write down which options you chose as noted below, with their point values and a total at the end.

Option	Point Value	Points
Earned		

Total Points Attempted, \_\_\_\_\_

Total Points Earned, \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: